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NATIONAL CONFEDERATION of AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS

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Washington 9, D. C.

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State of Pennsylvania
Superior Appellate Court
Board Chairman
National Association

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES

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French & Romance
Groups

VICE PRESIDENTS

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Polish National
of America
Father American
O.M.I.
French, French
Belgian Ethnic
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Slovak League
Sevas G. N...
Greek Order of

SECRETARY TREASURER

Thomas G...
R. C. Alliance

CHAIRMAN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Venerable Order
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VICE CHAIRMAN

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Executive Secretary
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ASSISTANT OF ACTIVITIES

B. Navasardian
National Secre...
Armenian Federat

NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS

Election of Officers:

National President: Judge Elair F. Gunther, Superior Court, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Affiliation: Board Chairman, Polish National Alliance, largest Polish fraternal in U. S. with chapters in the 48 states. Membership: well over 360,000.

Executive Vice President, Paul M. Deac, Public Relations Counselor and Former
Director of Activities: Foreign Correspondent, Washington, D. C. Affiliation:
French and Romanian ethnic groups.

Vice Presidents: Stanley Kotula, President, Polish National Union of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Rev. Fr. Armand Morissette, O.M.I., Lowell, Mass. Affiliation: French, French-Canadian and Belgian ethnic groups.

Philip A. Krobak, President, Slovak League of America, Middletown, Pa.

Savas G. Sapounakis, Director, Greek Radio Hour, Washington, D. C.
Affiliation: Greek Order of A.N.E.P.A.

Secretary-Treasurer: Thomas Gray, attorney, Baltimore, Md. Affiliation: Lithuanian Roman Catholic Alliance of America.

Assistant Director of Activities: B. Navassardian, Executive, Armenian Federations,
New York City and Boston, Mass.

Chairman, National Executive Council: Frank J. V. Gimino, Supreme Venerable,
Sons of Italy in America, Jersey City, N. J.

Vice Chairman: Frank J. Vodraska, President, Czechoslovak Society of America, Cicero, Ill.

Bela Bachkai, National Executive Secretary, American Hungarian Federation, New York City & Washington, D. C.

Chairman, National Assembly of Representatives: R. G. Hillebrand, President, German-American Citizens League of the U.S.

Vice Chairman: **Serge Balosselsky, President, All-Russian Liberation Committee, New York City.**

Dmytro Halychyn, President, Ukrainian Congress Committee; President, Ukrainian National Association, Jersey City, N. J. and New York City.

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AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups is a politically non-partisan, nation-wide, interracial, interreligious, patriotic, non-profit organization formed to promote the following aims and purposes:

- 1 -- Unite its collective and individual members for a greater American unity and a militant democracy.
- 2 -- Develop pride in and love for our system of government and its institutions.
- 3 -- Oppose Communist conspiracy at home and abroad, and work toward the liberation of all enslaved nations and individuals. We stand for liberation, self-determination and full sovereignty for all peoples and all nations, and oppose unprincipled expediency.
- 4 -- Oppose Fascism and any other totalitarian movement, teachings and ideas which are contrary to our basic American concepts of freedom, democracy, social equality and justice.
- 5 -- Eradicate barriers of race, religious faith and birthplace.
- 6 -- Uphold the rights of minorities in their freedom to speak, write and worship, and encourage the ethnic groups to make a fuller, more vigorous contribution to the American way of life.
- 7 -- Enable the ethnic groups to share fully in the rights and privileges, as well as responsibilities, of citizenship, to which they are entitled under the Constitution. This includes full and fair representation in the higher courts, in Congress, and on all policymaking bodies of government.
- 8 -- Initiate plans for a more rapid assimilation of foreign-born citizens into American society.
- 9 -- Promote public recognition of the artistic, scientific, civic and patriotic contributions which all ethnic groups have made to American life.
- 10 -- Sponsor educational programs with emphasis on ways and means to unite and carry out the aims and purposes of the Confederation.

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T

Delegates from 52 organizations representing 23 different nationality backgrounds met April 27 and 28, 1956, Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., and, after thorough deliberation, voted to establish on a broad non-partisan basis, a National Confederation of American Ethnic (nationality) Groups.

A national steering committee was then set up to guide the new Confederation through its preliminary steps, pending full organization and election of officers.

By unanimous vote, Paul M. Deac, veteran Washington journalist and presiding officer of the Assembly, was elected chairman of the National Steering Committee. He was empowered to take such steps as he considered necessary to ensure a vigorous and effective organization.

This summary is a report of what has been accomplished since and what must be done hereafter to achieve the goals set for us by the 1956 Assembly:

Organizational Efforts: More than 20,000 miles traveled by plane, train and automobile, covering 26 states with heavy minority group concentrations. Hundreds of leaders, newspaper, radio and TV executives were visited and talked to in their own offices, across the country. No effort or expense was spared to enlist the approval and support of influential people everywhere for the idea of uniting our nationality groups into one giant confederation and enabling them to become a dominant and constructive force on the American scene.

NOTE: Attempts to push organizational work by telephone and mail proved slow, ineffectual. The only alternative was to resort to the costlier, but more effective direct personal contact method, if the decisions of the Assembly and the National Steering Committee were to be carried out. This all-out effort entailed many days of carefully-planned, intensive roadwork. All expenses incurred so far have been met by your Steering Committee chairman. No contributions will be solicited until after we incorporate and are formally organized, with the proper executive machinery to map and control Confederation spending.

RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE

Organization: Groundwork has been completed for setting up regional divisions in 26 states; local chapters in 21 major cities. Contacts have been made with 114 national federations. Of these, 57 are pledged to support our aims and objectives. Fifteen other organizations are presently considering invitations to join the Confederation. Efforts continue to bring more groups into the fold.

Local, Regional Chapters: Work on setting up local and regional chapters is so advanced that only our inability to issue charters is keeping many of them from coming to life. For obvious reasons, we cannot encourage affiliates to incorporate before the mother organization.

One Example: Michigan Division -- the national chairman spent one full week in July, and another in September, 1956, meeting and conferring with nationality group leaders in Detroit and other parts of Michigan.

These efforts culminated in the meeting, Sept. 16, 1956, Grand Ballroom, Fort Shelby Hotel, in downtown Detroit, of more than 100 minority leaders representing

several hundred Michigan organizations, all of whom voted to establish a Michigan Division, National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups. A Michigan chairman and a co-chairman were designated by the national chairman at the request, and after consultation with Michigan group leaders. A broad Michigan steering committee also was created. Thus, the Michigan Division, with hundreds of patriotic, fraternal, church and social groups ready to support its activities, is waiting for us to incorporate at the national level and to issue the charters without which Confederation chapters cannot set themselves up in business and operate legally.

For further backing, we have obtained assurances of cooperation from the foreign-language press, the Michigan dailies and radio and TV stations. Incidentally, plans for a giant Michigan rally had to be shelved last fall for reasons stated above. These rally plans will be revived after incorporation. Such patriotic gatherings will be held from coast to coast as part of a program to dramatize the views and might of the nationality groups.

Organizational Speedup: In view of the urgent need for completing our organization (the outcome of Hungary's tragic bid for freedom might have been different had the nationality groups in this country been fully organized and prepared to act with courage and vigor in that emergency), we are presently requesting all organizations represented at the April 27-28, 1956 Washington meeting, and others who wish to join, to formalize their affiliation with the National Confederation. This can be done by sending an official letter of affiliation to the Confederation.

Such organizations should, at the same time, designate one delegate and an alternate to sit on the Confederation's supreme governing body. Future officers of our organization will be drawn from this national board of representatives. Certificates of affiliation will be issued on the strength of the above action.

Committees appointed: The national chairman has appointed 1) an Organizational Committee to help with planning and organizational work. This committee's membership was drawn from the following groups: Armenian, French, French-Canadian, Belgian, Polish, Russian, Italian, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Czech, Romanian, Slovak, Syrian-Lebanese, Greek and German. 2) A Constitution and By-Laws Committee to help draft the text of the Confederation's organic laws and principles. To lessen problems of distance and expense, the chairman appointed representatives residing within a radius of 225 miles from the nation's capital.

Congressional Support: Many Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, have been contacted and informed of our aims and objectives. So far 152 have expressed approval and willingness to support our program.

Communications: Support has been secured for launching a national magazine -- official organ of the Confederation. An initial investment of \$500,000, guaranteeing publication for at least one year, has been pledged for financing this project, subject to consent and approval of the National Steering Committee.

Another plan covers means for assuring advertising revenue to foreign-language newspapers and radio programs which support the Confederation's aims and purposes.

We also have secured the approval and support of a certain number of big dailies and newspaper chains for the time when the Confederation is ready to issue its statement of policy and to launch its widespread activities. We will have appreciable support in the radio and TV field, also.

Americans All Film: Several industrialists are so sold on the Confederation and its aims that they are offering to put up \$60,000 for a promotion

film dramatizing the cause and principles for which we stand and showing the evils we propose to combat. Made under Confederation supervision by the best professional talent available, this film could be shown on TV, in movie houses and before various church and service clubs, to name but a few possibilities. This film could also be shown and viewed in many foreign lands where our people have relatives and friends.

Cooperation With Foreign Press & Organizations: There is a strong possibility that, to further enhance Confederation influence in world affairs, our program, views and activities will be widely publicized by the press, radio-TV, organizations and individuals in other lands. Such friendly exchanges would enable the Confederation to keep abreast of trends and developments and know what is really going on in the world without having to rely on official handouts or data from other more or less biased sources.

Armed with the true facts, the Confederation could exercise a healthy influence in the making of our nation's foreign -- and domestic -- policies, for which the nationality groups pay, but in which so far they have no voice.

Confederation Headquarters: Plans have been completed for the establishment in Washington of permanent executive and administrative offices. Detailed charts showing structure of our Confederation and staff operations are ready for approval of the National Steering Committee.

Constitution And By-Laws: Text of a nine-page draft has been prepared and is ready for the usual readings and approval of our governing body.

Issues, Pro and Con: Here too, we have prepared a list of important issues, foreign and domestic, on which the Confederation will have to take a stand -- for or against. We also have prepared a comprehensive plan of action in conjunction with these issues.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We must first formalize our existence as a national organization. We must file incorporation papers. These are now being processed and incorporation will take place in the District of Columbia by mid-April. After incorporation we can issue charters and speed up organization at regional and local levels.

The National Steering Committee will meet soon to change the present temporary set-up to a permanent structure. Some of the points to be considered are:

- 1 -- Adopt Constitution and By-Laws
- 2 -- Authorize plans for establishing Confederation's permanent executive and (administrative offices.
- 3 -- Define aims and purposes; decide what issues we will support or oppose.
- 4 -- Discuss and approve a unified plan of action and means enabling our groups to vigorously support the Confederation's program.
- 5 -- Discuss bureaucratic attempts to confuse and mislead our groups to prevent them from uniting and having a voice in governmental affairs.
- 6 -- Decide time and place for our first national convention and election of (national officers.

(Prepared by the Chairman, National Steering Comm.)

Nationality Groups Join In Coalition

The National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups was officially organized yesterday when the new association's governing body approved the election of officers.

The Confederation's national board of representatives approved the officers named here last June at a meeting of the organization's steering committee.

Judge Blair E. Gunther of the Superior Court of Pittsburgh was named president of the Confederation. He is chairman of the board of the Polish National Alliance, largest Polish fraternal group in the United States.

The Confederation is composed of 52 national organizations, each having chapters in almost every state in the union. Combined membership is more than 17 million.

The successful establishment of the Confederation climaxed a two-year campaign. Paul M. Deac, executive vice president of the Confederation, said it was the first time such an organization had been established.

The Confederation has been incorporated in the District as a non-profit civic and educational association. It will establish permanent headquarters in Washington.

Gunther said one goal of the organization is "full and fair recognition for ethnic groups." Gunther said nationality groups have "practically no representation in the policy-making bodies of our government and in the higher courts."

In foreign affairs, Gunther said, the Confederation supports the "basic principles of liberation, self-determination and full sovereignty for all peoples and all nations." He said ethnic groups were distinguished "with the negative policies of unprincipled expansionism, competition with evil, neglect and contempt."

New York World-Telegram

The World's News

NEW YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1947.

Nationality Groups Battling Reds

By DOUGLAS LARSEN.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—A counter-attack has been launched against recently revealed Communist party efforts in the United States to infiltrate nationalistic groups.

Leaders of the groups are appearing before a Senate subcommittee today to explain their conversion to the party. The party was the only surviving group of the 100 nationalistic groups which were vulnerable to Communist infiltration, according to Judge Samuel J. Untermyer of Pittsburgh, who was going to lead the effort to see that nothing came of it as head of the new National Emergency Council of American Ethnic Groups, headquarters for the



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Judge Gunther is a genial, beefy individual with a sharp legal mind and vast experience in his own nationality group. He is Chairman of the Board of the Polish National Alliance, the largest Polish fraternal group in the U.S., with chapters in all 48 states and a membership well over 380,000.

During World War II, Judge Gunther acted as liaison between U.S. Army Intelligence and U.S. Poles who could provide information and help in the fight against the Nazis. Most of the details of this work are still secret.

The NCAEG has other goals, but its effort to fight Communist infiltration of nationality societies is the one which interests him most.

"It's basically a question of alerting these organizations to the fact that the Communies would like to take them over," he explains. "I

think that once we acquaint them with the fact that they have become the target of the Reds and expose some of their methods of infiltration, we will have checked the big danger."

The NCAEG, after two years of organizational effort, now is composed of 52 nationality organizations with a combined membership of over 17 million. Of its general goals Judge Gunther says:

"The confederation is strictly non-partisan, having many Republicans, Democrats and Independents in its ranks. We are primarily interested in issues and the way these issues are handled, not in personalities or one's party affiliations.

"We aim at full and fair recognition in the higher courts, in Congress and on all policy making bodies of the government. In the foreign policy field we will support the basic principles of liberation, self-determination

and full sovereignty for all peoples and all nations."

Other officers of the organization reveal the wide base of its membership. Vice presidents include: Stanley Kotula, president of the Polish National Union of America; the Rev. Armand Morissette, a member of French, French-Canadian and Belgian ethnic groups; Philip A. Hrobak, president of the Slovak League of America, and Savas G. Sapounakis, an official of the Greek society AHEPA.

Other officers include representatives from Lithuanian, Armenian, Italian, Czechoslovakian, German and Spanish nationality groups. The organization is incorporated as a non-profit civic and educational association in the District of Columbia. It plans regional and local chapters.